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Bill Fairclough

Bill Fairclough's career in financial services coincided with covert intelligence work. He has stated in broadcasts on the Spanish state television and radio station RTVE that he served as an agent for MI6, the CIA and other intelligence agencies.[1][2][3]

Early life and education

Bill Fairclough (born 1950 in England) attended Red House School, Norton Green, Stockton-on-Tees (1955–1963) before winning a scholarship to St Peter's School, York (1963–1968).[4]

From 1969 to 1973 he trained as a Chartered Accountant with Cooper Brothers (later Coopers & Lybrand) in their Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne and London offices.[5] He qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1973 and remained such until his resignation in 2016.[6]

He qualified as a member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment in 1994 (resigned 2016)[7] and as a life member of The Association of Corporate Treasurers in 1995.[8]

According to Bill Fairclough, in the early 1970s he was recruited for MI6 by Colonel Alan Brooke Pemberton CVO MBE and thereafter undertook covert assignments while continuing his accountancy career.[1][2][3]

Overt professional career

Overtly, Fairclough worked at at Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers - PwC) from 1969 to 1983.[6][5] He served as a vice-president at Citicorp (Citigroup/Citi) from 1983 to 1986.[9] He later held directorships within the Barclays group from 1986 to 1999 [10][11][12] and in Instinet in the Reuters group from 1992 to 1995.[13]

During his career Bill Fairclough was a director of companies undertaking regulated financial activities including banking, credit/finance, insurance, investment and stockbroking. Before being appointed a director of these companies he had to register as a "Director" with the FSA (UK) replacing IMRO (Investment Management Regulatory Organisation), PIA (Personal Investment Authority) and The SFA (Securities and Futures Authority), MOF (Ministry of Finance, Japan), SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission, Hong Kong), SEC (United States Securities and Exchange Commission) and/or the Bank of England.[9][14]

Banking – Barclays Bank Trust Co. Ltd, Chexcel Ltd, Mercantile Credit Company Ltd, Surety Trust Ltd

Credit/Finance – Agrequip Ltd, Barclays Financial Services Ltd, Barclays Mercantile HBS Ltd, Barclays Retail Services Ltd, European Collateral Finance plc, European Corporate Finance plc, Fiatagri Finance Ltd, Mercantile (Basingstoke) Ltd, Mercantile (Hampshire) Ltd, Mercantile Card Services Ltd, Mercantile Financial Services Ltd, Mercantile Wholesale Vauxhall Ltd, Motoring Card Ltd, PSA Credit Company Ltd, UK Cars Direct Ltd, Wadham Stringer Credit Co. Ltd

Insurance – Mercantile Credit Life Assurance Co. Ltd

Investment – Citibank Investments Ltd, The Money Portal plc

Stockbroking – Barclays Stockbrokers Ltd, Instinet International Ltd, Instinet Investment Services Ltd, Instinet Japan Ltd, Instinet Nederland NV and Instinet Pacific Ltd, Instinet UK Ltd, Thamesway Inc

Bill Fairclough has stated that none of the regulatory checks by regulators or compliance officers revealed his intelligence associations or activities.

According to Companies House records, after leaving Barclays in 1999, Bill Fairclough was appointed chairman and/or director of several companies including WW Dental Excellence Ltd, the ECF Group plc, PonderSwamp Ltd, Faire Sans Dire Ltd and The Money Portal plc.[15] Some of those companies have changed names since he was a director.

Covert career and intelligence associations

In addition to his corporate roles, Bill Fairclough has publicly discussed his covert career in intelligence during two interviews broadcast on the Spanish state television and radio station RTVE. According to the RTVE interviews he had been recruited by MI6 and subsequently worked for MI5, the CIA and other intelligence agencies. He said MI6 assigned him the codename "JJ" for infiltration and investigatory assignments and that he was referred to in British Intelligence circles as one of "Pemberton's People" in MI6.[1][2][3]

Since 2019, the Spanish public broadcaster RTVE has produced a fact-based series called *Código Crystal*, interviewing espionage experts and covering major intelligence topics. The two episodes featuring Bill Fairclough's interviews were broadcast on 22 March and 26 April 2025. They comprised 20 questions, some of which were specifically targeted at Bill Fairclough's espionage activities career.[1][2][3]

The questions focusing on Bill Fairclough were:

- Questions 2 & 19 – *Beyond Enkription* and *The Burlington Files*[16][17]
- Question 3 – FaireSansDire, Colonel Alan Pemberton and Pemberton's People in MI6
- Questions 4, 5, 7, 14, 15 & 16 – Bill Fairclough's modus operandi as a spy
- Question 6 – *Bill Fairclough's Known Life-Threatening Incidents* written by his son Charles Fairclough and published on 7 August 2023 on *The Burlington Files* website
- Questions 8 & 9 – working with the Five Eyes including MI6 and the CIA
- Question 20 – Bill Fairclough's recruitment by MI6, his remuneration and his clandestine Caribbean operations specifically in the Bahamas and Haiti in the 1970s

FaireSansDire

In 1978 Fairclough founded FaireSansDire, based in London, a consultancy business focusing on security, risk and intelligence. Its website went public in 2010.[18]

The Burlington Files and publications

Fairclough is the author of *Beyond Enkription (https://theburlingtonfiles.org/)* (2014), the first and so far only published volume in his planned six-book series *The Burlington Files*. He also wrote many articles published on *The Burlington Files* website, which includes FaireSansDire's archived content. *Beyond Enkription* and subsequent editions (including audiobook releases) have been reviewed in trade and online publications. The book forms part of his public profile as an author recounting aspects of his life and career.[16][17]

The Money Portal plc litigation

In 2004 and 2005, while a director of The Money Portal plc, Fairclough was accused in the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division (Case No. HQ05X00357) of breaching his duties during an investigation into a co-director. The co-director was subsequently banned from acting as a director for ten years. In July 2006, the case against Bill Fairclough was dropped following an out-of-court settlement reported to have been in his favour and agreed with The Money Portal's chairman, chairman, Richard Hambro of the Hambros Bank family.[19][20]

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